



GRANT RECIPIENT
NIRPC

YEAR
2009

COUNTY
PORTER

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$12,500

LOCAL SHARE
\$12,500



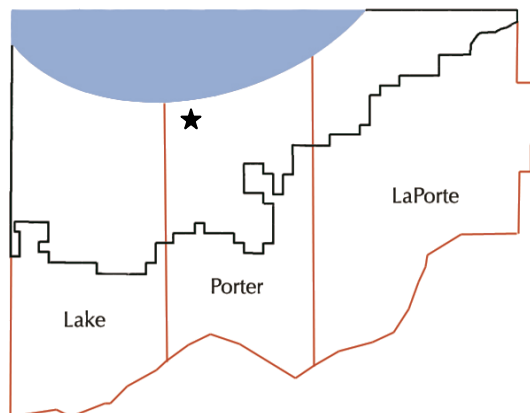
FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9912
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Native Landscaping Demonstration Project

The goal of this project was to transform the current traditional turf grass landscaping at the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) with native plantings and green infrastructure, such as a rain garden. The many ecological, economical, and health benefits of native landscaping have been demonstrated to the public through this project by having the native plantings surround the NIRPC public building and parking lot.

The project organized stewardship committees of conservation groups, agencies, and companies, who participate in NIRPC programs and committees, secured a consultant to design and assist in building a rain garden and vegetated swales adjacent to the parking lot, held a volunteer event to plant the rain garden, and conducted ecological monitoring and maintenance. Informational signage has also been placed in highly visible locations to explain to visitors the environmental and economic benefits of native landscaping. For this project, NIRPC partnered with the City of Portage, MS4 Community Partnership, which hosted a public rain garden workshop, and the Wildlife Habitat Council, which will provide technical assistance and ecological monitoring over time.



RESULT: Established native plantings and visible signage to inform the public about sustainable landscaping.